



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Washington Aqueduct completes Environmental Impact Statement on Water Treatment Residuals Project

Baltimore — Washington Aqueduct has completed an Environmental Impact Statement for a Water Treatment Residuals Management Process. The EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency last Thursday, and a notice will be published in the *Federal Register* Sept. 23.

Washington Aqueduct developed the EIS in order to identify a new process for managing the water treatment residuals for the Dalecarlia and McMillan Water Treatment Plants, which provide drinking water to the District of Columbia, and to Arlington County and the Falls Church service area in Virginia.

The EIS evaluated a range of alternatives to comply with the provisions of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit issued in March 2003 by EPA. This permit restricts the discharge of water treatment residuals (i.e., sediment and the accompanying coagulant) to the Potomac River. These residuals are a byproduct of the drinking water treatment process.

The EIS identifies a preferred alternative that meets the project's purpose and need and provides the necessary safety and reliability of operations at the water treatment plants. The preferred alternative also has the fewest potential impacts on the natural as well as the human environment. The preferred alternative involves construction of a new processing facility on Washington Aqueduct property near the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant and Sibley Memorial Hospital. Dewatered solids would be produced in the facility and they would be trucked for agricultural reuse or disposal. Normal conditions would average eight truckloads per day Monday through Friday.

The publication of the EIS completes a process that began in January 2004. Throughout the process, Washington Aqueduct has sought and received public and agency comment. That input is reflected in the EIS.

The Baltimore District Engineer will issue a Record of Decision that names the alternative to be executed no earlier than Oct. 24.